AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 561 — Published by THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY New York City — Sept. 16, 1932

59.7, 55 H (69.5)

A NEW "TWO-WINGED" FLYING-FISH FROM MAURITIUS

BY J. T. NICHOLS AND C. M. BREDER, JR.

Among a number of small flying-fishes sent to us for examination, by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., we find two representing the genus *Halocypselus* (*Exocœtus* of various recent authors) from Mauritius, M.C.Z. No. 6216, labelled *Exocœtus monocirrhus*.

We have earlier recognized two species of this genus as *H. evolans* (Linnæus) and *H. obtusirostris* (Günther). Comparing the Mauritius fishes with material of comparable sizes we are convinced that they represent a third form close to *obtusirostris*, with notably longer ventral fins.

E. monocirrhus Richardson from China seems to be the same as *H. obtusirostris* (Günther), which we have examined from the eastern Pacific, and would replace it by priority. It may be as well to defer this change until Chinese material is available for comparison. Meanwhile, as there is no reason to suppose that the Mauritius form, to hand, occurs in China, we prefer to describe it as new rather than to identify it with *monocirrhus*.

Halocypselus borodini, new species

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—No. 6216, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, from Mauritius.

Length to base of caudal, 36 mm. Depth in this length, 3.8; head, 4.3; pectoral, 1.1. Eye in head, 2.7; snout, 3.5; interorbital (between front of eyes), 3.4; the same between middle of eyes, 2.5; maxillary, 4; barbel, 1.5; width of body, 1.6; depth of peduncle, 3; ventral, 0.9; longest dorsal ray, 1.5; longest anal ray, 1.5; lower caudal lobe (broken, est.), 0.7.

Dorsal rays, 13; anal, 12; scales (in bad condition, est.), 32.

Snout short, rounded downward. Pectoral reaching to halfway between caudal base and notch; ventrals reaching anal origin; their insertion halfway between snout and anal axil; anal origin almost exactly under that of dorsal.

Color much faded. Ventrals mostly blackish; other fins colorless. Barbel pale with a dark tip.

The one paratype (No. 9698 Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) is 32 mm. in length to base of caudal. Depth in this length, 3.8; head, 4.2; pectoral, 1.2; eye in head, 2.4; ventral, 0.8.

Pectoral reaching base of caudal; ventrals not quite to anal origin; their insertion halfway between end of snout and last third of anal base; anal origin almost exactly under that of dorsal.

Color is badly faded like that of the type, but in addition to the blackish ventrals it retains indications of pattern on the pectoral. The base of this fin is dark behind a line running obliquely across backward and outward from near the base of the first ray, and the tip of the fin is also dark.

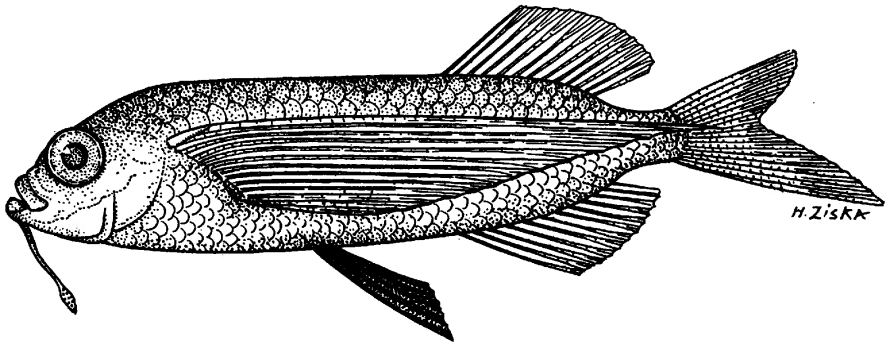

Fig. 1. *Halocypselus borodoni*, new species. Type.

The present species, closest to *H. obtusirostris*, is distinctly different from it and more so from *H. evolans*, in the possession of longer pectoral and ventral fins and a shorter head. In the specimens examined the pectorals are 1.1 or 1.2 in the length, as against 1.4, or shorter, in small specimens of the other species; the ventrals are longer than head, as against shorter. Other slight variations are not considered significant. The smaller specimen has the ventral insertion notably more anterior than that of the type. In this material little can be concluded as to its possible shift in position with size, but various progressive changes have been shown in this proportion in the other two species by Nichols and Breder, 1928, and Breder, 1928.[1]

We take pleasure in naming this fish for Dr. N. A. Borodin, who has called it to our attention and who must have spent recently many tedious hours making valuable ichthyological collections in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy more available for study.

[1]Nichols, J. T., and Breder, C. M., Jr., 1928, 'An Annotated List of the Synentognathi, with Remarks on Their Development and Relationships.' Zoölogica, VIII, No. 7, June 11, p. 432.
Breder, C. M. Jr., 1928, 'Nematognathi, Apodes, Isospondyli, Synentognathi and Thoracostraci from Panama to Lower California with a Generic Analysis of the Exocœtidæ.' Bull. Bingham Oceanographic Collection, II, Art. 2.